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## Took Out Own Appendix

Brisbane, Jan. 14.—A soldier who took his own appendix out with the aid of a mirror and an ordinary knife, received the Military Cross and Bar at an investiture here today.

He is Captain Robert Kerr McLaren, a 50-year-old Scottish born veterinary surgeon from Bundaberg, Queensland.

Captain McLaren said: "I knew I had appendicitis and would die unless I did something. I used a mirror and an ordinary knife for the operation—it was hell. But I came out all right and used jungle fibro to stitch the wound."

He performed the operation in Mindanao, in the Philippines, in August 1944.—Reuter.

## GUERRILLAS REPULSED

### Arakhova Defenders Hold Out

Athens, Jan. 15.—Defenders of Arakhova withstood five assaults by 500 guerrillas on Wednesday in the battle for the town now in its second day, press reports said at noon.

Arakhova is only 20 miles from where the Greek Army started mopping up operations with an amphibious landing on the Northern shore of the Gulf of Corinth on Tuesday.

The Greek Air Force strafed the attackers and dropped ammunition and supplies to the defenders of Arakhova, which is being attacked from three sides.

No contact has been possible with the town for several hours, due, it is believed, to damage to the town's wireless.

Three national guard companies, three platoons of gendarmes and 40 armed civilians comprise the town's defenders.

In Northwest Greece, guerrilla pressure is reported to have forced the Greek army to withdraw from advanced positions near the Albanian frontier. Skirmishing continued, the reports said.—Associated Press.

## TRAIN DISASTER

Quebec City, Jan. 14.—Five people killed when the east and west bound trains on the Transcontinental line crashed into each other about 400 kilometres northwest of Quebec City early today.—Reuter.

## EDITORIAL

### So Much For Public Opinion

RADIO listeners will derive cold comfort from the Postmaster-General's statement on future broadcasting plans which he made at a press conference this week. The only conclusion to be reached is that no plans exist; that any ideas of expansion have been shelved. ZBW and ZEK, operating on a couple of kilowatts are to remain third and even fourth rate stations—shameful examples of the narrow conceptions which so persistently motivate official policy. Presumably it was only because questions on the subject were submitted that any reference at all was made to Hongkong's radio stations. The answers in effect were: a new transmitter is desired, but there are no funds available, and that in any event delivery will take two years; consideration is being given to the employment of women announcers, but as it is not the policy of the BBC to engage a great number of women announcers, well... a new studio has been requested, but this is tied up with the general question of housing government departments, and of course it will cost money.... the subject of introducing commercial broadcasting is now being considered, and in due course a decision will be made. It was also indicated that the functions of the Broadcasting Advisory Committee are to act in a consultative and advisory capacity to the Postmaster-General so that he kept informed as to public ideas and wishes connected with broadcasting generally. The pious hope is expressed that the Advisory Committee's recommendations are acted upon with somewhat more readiness than the substantial expression of public opinion contained in last year's ZBW survey conducted by this paper. The general conclusions of that poll are worth recalling. They were

## Briton And His Wife Slain By Terrorists

### ARABS ATTACK JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

Jerusalem, Jan. 14.—A British civilian, Mr Thomas Berry, employed by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and his Jewish wife, the daughter of a Tel-Aviv judge, were shot and killed early today outside the headquarters of the British Second Infantry Brigade. The assailants ambushed the couple from cover out of sight of the sentries guarding the headquarters, the police stated.

A British army officer searching a new commercial centre in Jerusalem today for a Jewish woman, reported to have been taken away by Arabs, found her lying in an alley with three bullets in her head. Troops cordoned off the area and conducted a search but no trace was found of the woman's attackers.

A British soldier was shot and wounded by Arabs in the Majdal area, in southern Palestine yesterday, army reports stated.

Meanwhile, British police in Jerusalem today answered more calls for help from two isolated Jewish settlements on the Jerusalem-Hebron Road in south Palestine where Jewish sources reported a large source of Arabs had launched heavy dawn attacks.

Strong bands of Arabs brandishing rifles, knives and an assortment of other weapons, rushed from mountain village strongholds and swept down from the Hebron Hills to join the quickly growing Arab force attacking the Jewish settlements.

The Arabs barricaded the roads and laid down mines to prevent the police from reaching the settlements.

The attacks began with a force of 20 or 30 Arabs raking one of the four grouped settlements with automatic rifle fire and cutting the settlements' telephone lines.

### COUNTER-FIRE

The Jews laid down heavy counter-fire and the battle developed with the arrival of Arab reinforcements which were said to be racing along the roads from Bethlehem and Hebron, as well as from the West, in cars and lorries to join the Arab battle groups.

Arab reports suggested that many hundreds of Arabs were engaged in the fighting.

The police came under rifle fire from hill positions as they tried to fight through the Arab cordons to relieve the threatened Jews.

Unknown gunmen ambushed a car flying the flag of the Iraqi Consul-General on the Jerusalem-Hebron Road and seriously wounded the chauffeur and two women occupants of the car—said to be the Consul-General's relatives.

According to one of the wounded, the attackers wore army uniforms and civilian clothes.

### JERUSALEM EXPLOSIONS

Five explosions shook Jerusalem tonight. They were attributed to Jewish mortar barrage on the Arab Sheikh Jarrah quarter by Haganah. Machinegun fire could be heard.

Observers on Mount Scopus overlooking the attacked quarter said that some 12 to 15 shells fell on roofs of Arab houses as passersby scattered for shelter.

Border-land battles between the twin cities of Tel-Aviv and Jaffa, on the Palestine coast, killed four Arabs and a four-year old child.

Two members of the Higher Executive and the District Commissioner of the British police drove to the Jewish settlements near Hebron, south of Jerusalem, earlier today to halt Arab attacks on the isolated settlements. The spokesman said the officials had driven to the fighting area, 30 kilometres south of Jerusalem. He added that British troops had not yet been called into action.

### RED INDIAN TACTICS

The Arabs were reported to be using "Red Indian" tactics, encircling the settlements under cover of fire from snipers while continuous machinegun fire came from the Jewish defenders lining the perimeter of the settlement defences.

All consulates represented in Jerusalem have been granted formal permission by the Palestine Government to bring in troops from their countries for consular guard duties, it was learned tonight.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi, Zionist revisionist terrorist organisation, tonight accused Haganah of kidnapping Irgun members and warned it to stop.

It also gave warning against letting Palestine become "a second Greece."

Jewish sources here claimed tonight that up to 100 Arabs were killed when they were blown up in minefields in attempting to smash into the Jewish settlements while another 300 were killed in the fighting.

The Arabs were panned on the minefields by automatic fire, these sources claimed.

Official Arab quarters denied these claims and British sources were unable to confirm or deny them.—Reuter.

### NEW YORK ARRESTS

New York, Jan. 14.—Federal Bureau of Investigation agents today arrested four men over an attempt to ship TNT to Palestine and warrants were issued for the arrest of two other men believed to be on their way to the Holy Land.

The charges are based on the seizure on January 3, of 30 crates of TNT listed with the United States Customs as containing "used industrial machinery and parts."

The arrested men were charged with violation of the United States code in giving false statements regarding exports.—Reuter.

## Secret Evacuation Plan

Lake Success, Jan. 14.—Great Britain prepared today to lay before the United Nations Palestine Commission an expanded and highly secret plan for pulling out from Palestine.

The Commission, which will supervise the partition of the Holy Land, has agreed to a demand of the British delegate, Sir Alexander Cadogan, that the detailed blueprint for transferring authority to the United Nations will be kept "strictly confidential."

Setting a pace beyond expectations, the five-nation group is ready to follow up the Cadogan hearing by calling Moshe Shertok, political chief of the Jewish Agency, on Thursday or Friday.

Without waiting to learn the latest British programme, the Philippines delegate, Mr Vincent J. Francisco, faces up to the main problem by preparing to introduce a proposal designed to prod the Security Council into considering immediately the necessity of an international police force to back the partition.—United Press.

## Russia Seen As Big Naval Power

### AIMS TO BUILD SUBSTANTIAL MERCANTILE MARINE

Washington, Jan. 14.—Lieut P. W. Rairden, Jr, of the United States Navy, today asserted that the United States "must face the prospect of great Soviet sea power in the future," with a large Red Navy fleet "based in the Port Arthur-Vladivostok-Petropavlovsk area" of the Far East.

## Mob Violence Is Answer To Gandhi's Fast

New Delhi, Jan. 14.—Mob violence broke out here and dispatches reported the slaughter of 1,300 Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan as Mohandas Gandhi entered the second day of his "fast unto death" in protest against Hindu-Moslem enmity.

From his bed on the terrace of his villa, Mr Gandhi told those at his prayer meeting today: "God made me start my fast and He alone can make me end it."

He said he was becoming so weak that he might not be able to speak to his followers tomorrow. He also said he was receiving appeals by cablegram from abroad urging him to end his fast, but that he must persist in it.

"I remember my boyhood dream of united India," said Mr Gandhi. "Now I am an old man on the brink of death. If the Hindus, Moslems and Sikhs and others achieve real, lasting unity, my heart will dance."—United Press.

### DEFIES DOCTORS

New Delhi, Jan. 14.—Mahatma Gandhi, the spiritual leader of India's millions, 30 hours after his last meal, disregarded his doctors' advice and in a hoarse whisper, spoke to an audience of 500 people who attended his prayer meeting today.

On the second day of his fast, he braved the unity of Hindus and Moslems, there was no sign of change in the condition of the Mahatma, except that he did not walk so briskly and his voice was quieter than usual.

"The day is not far off when I shall not have enough strength to speak or move," he said.

"Although the doctors advised me not to attend this meeting, I am not in the doctors' hands but in the hands of God. I do not care even if I die."—Reuter.

## Cold Wave Hits Parts Of U.S.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—The winter's most severe cold wave today chilled residents in a wide belt from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachians, and in International Falls, Minnesota, where residents are suffering a fuel-oil shortage—the mercury fell to 30 degrees below zero (Fahr).

Sub-zero temperatures were reported in many other communities in the North Central States, where the shortage of fuel oil complicated the problem of keeping warm.

Other low temperatures included 25 below zero at Pembina, North Dakota, 22 below at Duluth, Minnesota, and 20 below at Alexandria, Minnesota.

The cold extended far south of New Orleans, where temperatures dropped to below freezing.—United Press.

## MARSHALL PLAN: SNYDER MAKES A NEW PLEA

Washington, Jan. 14.—Mr John Snyder, the Under-Secretary for the Treasury, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that he was opposed to requiring the 16 European nations receiving aid under the Marshall Plan to use their dollar holdings in the United States to help pay for European recovery.

Mr Snyder said it would be folly to force them to do so as the citizens of these countries, he said, had about \$4,800,000,000 in dollar assets on June 30, last year.

He added that it would be difficult to get the cash readily on most of these assets as some were already pledged for loans; that the Europeans needed the funds to cover their normal trade and financial operations, and that their holdings already were below a "safe" amount needed to keep their own currencies steady.

Mr Snyder explaining the financial manner in which they should be taken," he said.

After stating that assistance to Western Europe should be provided as a combination of grants in aid and loans, Mr Snyder said: "The criterion for selecting one or the other form should be the capacity of recipient countries to earn in the years to come the dollars which would be needed to pay the interest on capital. We should take care not to insist that these countries contract additional dollar debts which will absorb their dollar earnings in such a degree as to operate to the disadvantage of future trade and private investment," he said.—Reuter.

### DOLLARS GUARANTEE

(2) Five percent of the programme funds should be set aside to guarantee private American firms United States dollars in exchange for the foreign currencies they earn through investment in those countries, the purpose being to attract private investment abroad.

(3) Congress should permit the United States aid money to be spent on buying goods in short supply for the Marshall Plan countries in Canada, Latin America and elsewhere, or to be spent in one Marshall Plan country to buy goods for another one.

(4) Separate agreements will be required from each beneficiary country assuring that steps will be taken to steady its currency. This would be done through a balanced budget, tax law changes, and at the proper time by devaluing inflated currencies to a point in line with their true buying power.

(5) Each beneficiary country will also be required to set aside local currency "grants" in aid given by the United States and use it for the reduction of its public debt unless the United States authorize use for reconstruction or development purposes.

The United States should lend gold and dollars later, possibly this year and probably the next, to furnish the European countries with hard money reserves to bolster value of their own paper money and keep it steady.

### FREE CO-OPERATION

"If entire aid for European countries were on a loan basis it would be practically impossible for them to meet additional annual charges from their earnings of dollars even after trade and investments return to normal," he said.

Emphasizing the necessity of "preserving the spirit of free and friendly co-operation between the United States and European Governments," Mr Snyder urged that there should be a minimum of dictation to the Marshall Plan's recipient nations in financial aspects of the plan.

"I am sure this country does not wish to dictate to these friendly countries either the particular measures they should take or the exact

### On The China Front

## Big Victory Claimed By Nationalists

Peiping, Jan. 14.—A spokesman of Gen. Fu Tso-yi's headquarters claimed today a major victory in the three-day battle southwest of Peiping, which was said to have crippled the main Communist forces in Hoppel, thus lifting the threat to the Peiping-Pooting area.

He said that both sides used main forces in the battle for Laishui, 45 miles southwest of Peiping. Once the Reds broke into a section of Laishui but were driven out by reinforcements. The Nationalist reinforcements, reached Peking and Chungking near Laishui and drove the Reds to the mountains westward. The spokesman said the Communists suffered heavy casualties.—United Press.

### EVACUATION URGED

Hankow, Jan. 14.—All American missionaries in the Yangtze valley region were urged to leave today as fighting broke out near Laohokow, endangering the air evacuation planned for tomorrow.

The American Consul, Mr Leonard Nelson, was said to have asked the missionaries to make immediate use of evacuation facilities. He said that some refused and insisted on staying at their posts, although the majority will take advantage of the air rescue.

One group of 25 was evacuated from Chengchow, 36 miles north of Hankow, bringing the total of persons evacuated by air from Hupeh and Honan provinces in the last two weeks to 125.

A rescue plane flew back to Chengchow for a second load today, planning to return to Hankow before making a trip to Laohokow.

Fighting between the Nationalists and raiders of Communist Liu Pochien flared today at Tengkshen, 40 miles northeast of Laohokow.

Mr Daniel Nelson, chairman of the Lutheran World Federation in charge of the air evacuation programme, said he feared that the fighting would endanger the rescue work tomorrow.

Nelson said he did not receive any notification that the Chinese Air Force has granted permission to the rescue plane Saint Paul to land at Laohokow, adding that we would not dare to land until permission is granted.—United Press.

### Landslide Kills 21

Dar-Es Salaam, Jan. 14.—A landslide killed 21 Africans, seriously injured 15 others and destroyed the homes of 21 more on the main Kilosa-Ikara Road in Tanganyika today.

A mile of road was deluged in rocks, earth and torrents of water. Hundreds were buried in the debris.—Reuter.

## Truman Warns Congress

Washington, Jan. 14.—President Harry Truman told Congress it must have standby price control, rationing and other strong anti-inflation powers or take responsibility for a possible "destructive" slump. Congressional Democrats followed through by introducing legislation to provide the US\$40 "cost of living" income tax cut which Truman asked for every income taxpayer and dependant.

The President sent to Congress a 136-page economic report bristling with warnings of inflation and a serious business slump. It reported the U.S. was at a "high level of prosperity," it forecast "another year of splendid achievement." But it reported this seeming well-being rests on a wave of inflation which has already caused serious hardship and presents grave concern for the future.

Just as the message reached Congress, Secretary of the Interior Julius Krug testified before the Senate Banking Committee that if price control authority is granted he will at once freeze retail and wholesale prices of coal, fuel oil, gasoline and all petroleum products. He said it might be necessary to ration fuel oil.

Senator Robert Taft, Chairman of the Congressional Committee on the economic report, declined comment on Mr Truman's message.

Mr Truman reportedly told Democratic Congressmen he wants partial restoration of the wartime excess profits tax to make up for his proposed US\$3,200,000,000 cut in individual income taxes.

In his message President Truman widened the breach between himself and the Republican Party on his insistent demand for two programmes the Republicans oppose:

1.—Enactment of Truman's 10 point anti-inflation programme, including authority to control prices and wages and ration scarce foods.

2.—Use of all of this year's prospective US\$47,500,000,000 budget surplus to reduce the national debt.—Associated Press.



TO-DAY ONLY **QUEENS** at 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 p.m.

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ON THE STAGE  
**MR. TANG KWOK HING**  
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IN SENSATIONAL JUGGLING & BALANCING ACTS!  
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**"THE CAPTIVE HEART"**  
J. Arthur Rank presents Starring Michael REDGRAVE  
TO-MORROW! **"My Favorite Brunette"**

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**"I'LL TURN TO YOU"**  
Harry Welchman - Ann Lockington - George Merritt  
Francis Handel - Elsie Spring  
Neville Koss  
SANDY MACPHERSON - SYLVIA WELLS  
CHOIR OF THE WEST END  
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
Soloists: JOHN McHUGH  
RELEASED THRU' INTERNATIONAL FILMS  
OPENS **"My Favorite Brunette"**  
TO-MORROW with BOB HOPE - DOROTHY LAMOUR

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Two-listed divers go into action!  
Two tough Romans go after the girl!  
**ROUGH, TOUGH and READY**  
A Columbia Picture  
with JEAN ROGERS - VERA ANN BORD - ROBERT WILLIAMS  
Original Screen Play by Edward T. Lowe - Produced by ALEXIS THURN-TAXIS - Directed by DEL LORD

**ORIENTAL**  
SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30-5.15-7.20-9.20 P.M.  
HUNTED BY HUMAN BLOOD-BOUNDS... BUT AT THE LAST, DESPERATE END OF THE TRAIL WAS A GIRL NAMED TONI!

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**THE SEVENTH CROSS**  
Signe HASSO - HUMPHREY BOGART  
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GRAND OPENING TO-DAY **Cathay** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.  
J. ARTHUR RANK PROUDLY PRODUCED  
Deborah KERR - SABU - David FARRAR in  
**"BLACK NARCISSUS"**  
IN TECHNICOLOR



"Couldn't you do it in the kitchen, dear? I've just had this carpet cleaned!"

## THE STRANGEST CLUB IN THE WORLD

**S** MUDGE is a black retriever with a white shirt front and white socks. At one time during World War II, he and his master, Flight Lieutenant. H. L. Mackay, D.F.C., former mid-upper gunner of a heavy bomber, were stationed at Pocklington airfield, Yorkshire.

Smudge always knew when his master was going out on "ops." He would lie on the floor, sorrowfully watching him collect flying boots and kit. When the time came to say goodbye, he would lick his master's hand and go quickly to the window, from which, pressing his nose against the pane, he watched him walk out of sight.

It was Smudge's custom to dine at 8 o'clock prompt. It was a date he never missed and he was most punctilious about the time. One night, while the bomber was not over Germany, his dinner was brought as usual, and he waded into it with his customary enthusiasm. Suddenly he stopped dead, looked at the door, and began walking round the room, making a distressing, mournful noise. Finally, after jumping at the window, he lay down in a corner and put his head under his paws, leaving the remainder of his dinner uneaten. Twenty minutes later, he jumped up, shook himself, barked, wagged his tail and cleaned up his plate.

### Caught Fire

**W**HEN his master returned, Smudge gave him a rapturous welcome. In the mess, Mackay related the incidents of the night: how on the run over Dusseldorf the aircraft had been hit and caught fire, and for 20 minutes the crew had battled with the flames before they were extinguished.

And from the log book it was established that the dog's anxiety had corresponded with the time the aircraft was on fire.

Several such examples of the uncanny intuition of animals are to be found in Dorothea St. Hill Bourne's "They Also Serve" (Winchester Publications, 5s. 6d.). 83 illustrations, which tell the story of the "strangest" club in the world, the Allied Forces Mascot Club, membership of which is limited to Service animals and mascots of the fighting forces and civil defence units of World War II.

Smudge, like many of the other 3,000 members, may seem to have played an insignificant part in the long days of peril and defeat, of

danger and victory. But those who remember the companionship and amusement these pets gave to men and women doing a tough and often lonely job, how they became part, and an important part of their units, sharing hardship and relaxation, will be delighted to find in this narrative a permanent record their lovable personalities as well as a deserved tribute to the British Servicemen's love of animals.

The company in this Club and in this book is varied to put it mildly. Some members accomplished deeds of heroism, guarding air-

### By PETER LOVEGROVE

fields, carrying messages and Red Cross supplies, locating buried mines, patrolling, and detecting casualties under the debris of our bombed cities; they received decorations; had their share of the limelight in Press and on radio; appeared in Victory parades; were even presented to Royalty.

Among these is Judy, a pointer bitch, whom the Japanese registered officially as P.O.W. No. 81 Medan; Rob, the 2nd S.A.S. Regt's paratroop collie, who jumped many times into enemy territory; Rifleman Khan the Alsatian, who saved his handler's life under heavy shellfire at the Walcheren crossing; sheepdog Rieky, one of the best human mine detectors in the Army; Punch the boxer, who fought terrorists in Jerusalem; Bob, the 6th Bn. Royal West Kent's gallant patrol collie; Jet and Irma, who did wonders in the Blitz; homing pigeon heroes of real life spy thrillers such as Kenley Lass, Maquis and Commando; a veteran of Arnhem, William of Orange; and the American G. I. Joe, who saved the lives of hundreds of men of the 109th Infantry Brigade in Italy.

Dogs and birds are in the majority on the Club's books. But there are also donkeys—such as Founder Member, won in a darts match and probably the only one of his kind to travel by underground; the North Somerset Yeoman's Nabius-born Yeo-Yeo; and the US 8th Air Force's Lady Mae, who had her own oxygen mask. The goat section includes the Highland Division's Willie, who joined up at Tobruk and travelled everywhere (and not always legally) with the 51st; Group Captain Billy, who had his own slit trench luxuriously carpeted with straw; and Lewis, who made a brave sight in full parade order with his polished hocks and gilded horns at the British Legion Festival at the Albert Hall.

• A well-known former London magistrate on why there are so many

## DANGEROUS MARRIAGES

... by CLAUD MULLINS

**A** MONG the lesser causes of a marriage failures are "forced" marriages, rash marriages, absence of homes, the absence of fathers; and the cinema.

When a young woman has, or is about to have, an "illegitimate" child, great pressure on both her and the father often comes from her parents, and sometimes from his, with the object of securing marriage.

These "forced" marriages are dangerous. They can, of course, be successful, but only often they end in failure. Those who press for such marriages usually believe that this is the

only way in which the parents can become "respectable." But respectability comes rather from efforts to do the best for the child. Therefore these marriages should not take place unless it is likely that the child will have a normal home, with both parents doing their best for the child and for the children that follow.

### Public money 'irresistible'

**A** MONG the causes of rash marriages war conditions are prominent. Often the short notice of service overseas led to marriages which, if delayed a few months, might never have taken place. With some men the fact that a wife would be maintained from public funds proved irresistible.

I saw some such men who were under 21 years of age; when parents will not give permission to marry, application can be made to a Magistrate's Court for permission. Many times, after hearing these applications, I came to the conclusion that the underlying urge to marry was the fact that public funds would maintain the wives. No thought had been given to ability to support a wife after the war. One cannot blame these men, for conditions were utterly abnormal.

It would have been better if allotments to soldier's wives had been given only after an engagement of a minimum period. The State is now paying vast sums to the Law Society to enable it to obtain divorces for large numbers of war-time marriages, so the State would have been justified in laying down conditions upon which alone wives would be maintained out of public funds.

### Living with the 'in-laws'

**A** NOTHER way of preventing rash marriages would have been to have had Preparation for Marriage units for the Forces.

A great work is now being done by Marriage Guidance Councils to help couples intending marriage. If such help had been available during the war, many unduly rash marriages might have been prevented. For ignorance of the essentials of marriage is widespread.

The absence of homes for young married people is often tragic in its effects. Some couples succeed well in life with the parents of one of them. But these are the exceptions. When listening to applications for separation I have over and over again come to the conclusion that the parties would have been able to avoid their quarrels and difficulties if they had had a home of their own.

The enforced, and unavoidable, absence of husbands in so many homes had disastrous effects. It placed a strain on both husband and wife which, I fully agree, should have been bearable. But those of an heroic mould are comparatively few.

Plenty of children suffered severely from the absence of their fathers. Psychology teaches that a father stands for law and order. It is significant that the volume of juvenile crime leapt up when war took so many fathers away from their homes.

### Can divorces be prevented?

**S**OME recent remarks of mine about the effect of the cinema on marriage were widely reported. What is wrong in so many films is not that they are glamorous, but that they encourage the belief that glamour is the main feature of marriage.

The prolonged kisses of the cinema are all very well, but they are not the features of marriage that are the most important. Glamour cannot last indefinitely. If its value is exaggerated, there is a danger that when it wanes, husband and wife find themselves desolate and without those qualities of comradeship, mutual respect, common interests and sense of duty that are the qualities that make marriages permanent.

In January last the Denning Committee recommended State help for Marriage Guidance Centres and soon afterwards the Lord Chancellor stated that this recommendation was accepted by the Government. Since then the Home Office has been working out a practical plan. Those who believe that many divorces can be prevented by conference and advice eagerly awaiting this plan, for although these centres raise much money from those whom they help and those who appreciate their work, they cannot be fully self-supporting.

Many of those who seek separation or divorce could with help find a better way out of their difficulties in one of these centres.

## BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

**F**RUSTRATIONIST poetry is technically ideological only in so far as it integrates all experience by suppressing punctuation, as M. Aragon does. It also follows Tufekoff in suppressing emotion, Barni in suppressing grammar and construction, and Filper in suppressing sense. As one reads one is conscious of an enormous vitality controlled by a dynamic discipline based on discipline. One seems to glimpse the entrails of the world under a microscope, which is what Skelapgo meant by unravelling the skeins of being. Filper goes further. He announces the annihilation of nothing as the last victory of a neo-quietist evolution.

Her energy and enthusiasm did not abate with the termination of hostilities, and many Servicemen have had reason to be grateful for her assistance in getting their pets repatriated and over the quarantine hurdles when the luck of the ballot was against them.

In "They Also Serve," she manages to communicate her tremendous zest and love of animals, and it will remain, as Admiral of the Fleet Lord Mountbatten remarks in his introduction, "a live memorial to the animals who were companions in adversity of our fighting forces and the great civilian community who stood up so finely to the attacks of a brutal enemy."

**A reactionary suggestion**  
I AM afraid the admirable suggestion by a fellow-hack that

December 17, 1904, should be kept as a day of mourning will seem to most people reactionary, unprogressive, and all the rest of it. On that day the flying machine made its first flight in North Carolina, and everybody knows how progressive the world has become since then, and what a boon the conquest of the air has been to the human race. As somebody said the other day, "The airplane is only in its infancy," which means, look out for 12-engined robot monsters, jet-propelled, travelling as fast as light, and able to carry enough dynamite to wipe out one city every three minutes.

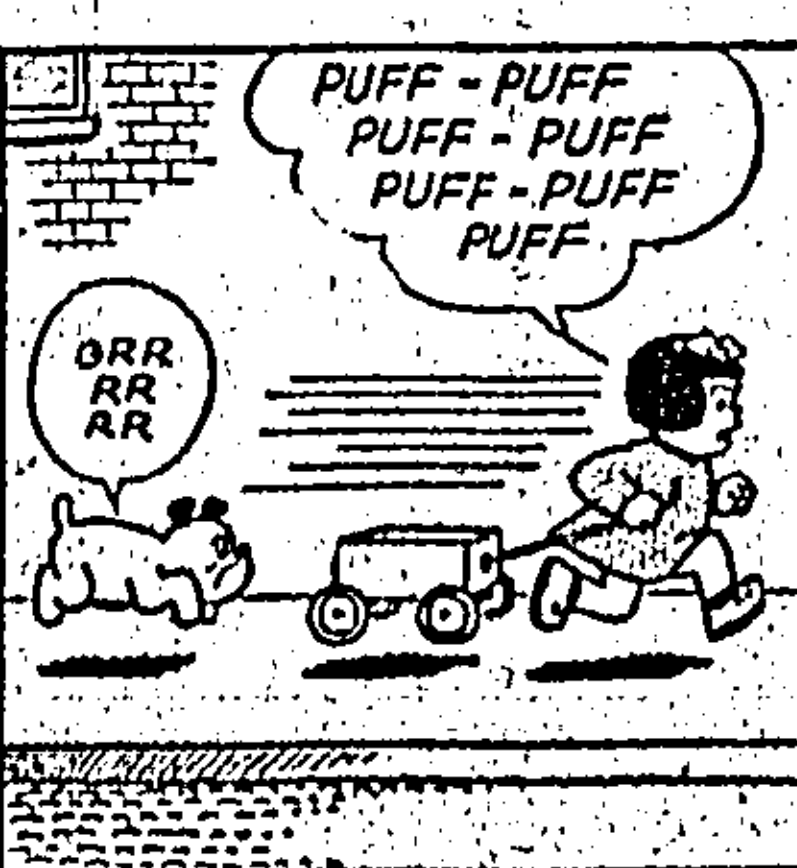
### Epitaph

Here lies an infant centipede. Who for compassion begs: He fell downstairs in his father's boots. And broke his hundred legs.

### In passing

I THOUGHT someone would write to tell me that the statue of St. Joan is not in front of the hotel at Chillon. For people who go to Chillon stay at the excellent Hotel d'Or, or perhaps at the Hotel de France, at both of which is a garage. But my hotel is the tiny little one in the Place Jeanne d'Arc called the Lion d'Or, which is simple and quiet.

## NANCY Wanna Bet?



As Sm-o-o-o-oth as black velvet!  
**Fitch's**  
NO BRUSH SHAVE CREAM  
on sale at leading Stores  
SOLE AGENTS: **NAN KANG CO.** UNICHAH 248



## PHOTOSTRIP SERIAL—No. 10

## HOW A HOLLYWOOD STAR IS BORN ★

## SYNOPSIS:

Hamiliated by the indignities she suffered as she sang with the Spike Jones Orchestra, Catherine, having had her dress blown completely over her head, breaks into tears and runs from the stage.



Kirby tries in vain to stop Catherine as she runs away. Confronting Mr. O'Connell at the edge of his swimming pool, Catherine shoves him into the water. Billy De Wolfe, more than slightly intoxicated from sipping his overly "spiked" sauce, chases

after O'Connell. He and others also fall into the pool, clothes and ducks and sauce and all! And what about the audition Catherine had scheduled for the next day? After having plunged the studio head into his swimming pool, does anyone think she can ever get into the studio again?

There is a great splashing around in the pool as Catherine runs away from the party. Even Director George Marshall dives into the water. So it's not only the actors who get their clothes soaked, but Marshall as well. (To be continued tomorrow)

## BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds

## "DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am 51 years old. Should I wear a black dress for all dressup occasions? I am tall, fair, and medium height—S. J." No, by no means! Soft pastels or deep winy shades are perfect for your "dressy" outfits.

## Minute Makeups by GABRIELLE



It is smart to learn to combine your outfits and you will spend less time wondering what to wear and your budget will produce more attractive clothes. Don't just buy a pretty blouse until you know it will go with the rest of your wardrobe. Don't be intrigued by a Green hat unless Green is becoming to you and will go with your suit.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I have a very large mouth. Should I use a light or a dark lipstick?—TILLY." Choose a natural Red lipstick and outline your mouth exactly, then deepen it a little in the centre. Keep your teeth gleaming!

"Dear Lois Leeds—Please give me a good exercise to reduce my 'derriere.'—SUE." In a kneeling position on the floor bend forward until elbows touch the floor, hands on opposite forearms. Raise one leg upward as far as possible without bending the knee. Do this several times with each leg.

"Dear Lois Leeds—How does one do the bicycle exercise without a bicycle?—NELL." Bicycle exercise. Lie on your back on the floor. Raise legs straight up with hands on your waist, elbows on floor, for support. Move the legs just as though you were riding a bicycle. With a little practise you can do this quite a number of times.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I have a dry, fine skin. Is very wrinkled although I do all I can. My husband thinks that I should dye my hair which is almost white. I am 60. I say wrinkles will show up even more. Am I right?—MRS X. Y. Z."

You are right. Why not use one of the new creams for aging skins, plus a cream foundation? You could try a colour rinse just to give a soft colour tint to your hair.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Is there such a perfume as honeysuckle?—MAE." Yes, you can find it but it is not so popular. Perhaps it's too naive!

## World May Know This Year If Life Exists On Other Planets

Scientists reaching into the unprobed depths of space through use of the great new 200-inch telescope in Mount Palomar Observatory, California, may learn during 1948 whether life exists on Mars or Venus and whether space is curved.

Discoveries expected when the world's largest telescope is put into service probably will provide the most exciting scientific news of the coming year.

Watson Davis, director of Science Service, believes the greatest astronomical interest will be in photographs to be taken of distant stars in remote galaxies. They will tell whether the unsampled remote regions of the universe are like the part we live in.

These photographs may show that space is curved, as Albert Einstein believes. Or they may show that it goes straight on and on.

Close-up views of Mars may show whether life has ever existed on that planet. Some scientists believe a civilisation actually flourishes there

now. The giant eye may also penetrate the permanent cloud around Venus. Present information suggests that part of Venus day be habitable.

Science Service has listed 10 likely developments in science during 1948. The Mount Palomar observations heads the list.

## Rockets To The Moon

Also listed is a prediction by Davis that scientists will try to shoot a small rocket to the moon. Its arrival would be signalled to earth by a flash on the moon's surface.

Rocket scientists already are talking seriously of problems involved in shooting rockets to Mars and Venus. Professor James R. Randolph, writing in the Journal of the American Rocket Society, even mentions the ultimate possibility of shooting permanent human colonies to Mars and possibly Venus. These colonies, he believes, then could build rockets for return trips.

He points out that landing humans by rocket on Mars would be easier than on the moon. The moon is airless.

A rocket must be given a velocity of nearly seven miles per second to get it clear of the earth.

## Other Predictions

Other predictions by Davis for 1948, some of them of more practical value in everyday life, include: Beginning of the construction of a gigantic billion-electron-volt atom smasher which should eventually duplicate cosmic radiation and bring about transmutation, nuclear rearrangements and possibly release of atomic energy by new mechanism.

New fundamental knowledge in biology and medicine of immediate practical importance to be discovered through use of radiotopes from atomic piles.

New discoveries of the remains of ancient man to be sought in Africa and North America. Scientists will seek to push back the antiquity of man in the western hemisphere to 30,000 to 40,000 years ago.

Flights of new jet planes and further development of guided missiles. Some of this knowledge will be kept secret for military purposes. Davis believes the range of a V-2 rocket may be doubled to beyond 200 miles.

Super conductivity—the extraordinary loss of electrical resistance at certain low temperatures by certain substances—to be explored further and possibly applied practically.

## Oxford Music Room In The News

Oxford University came into the news recently when what is known as the Music Room began a career once again as the home of the University Musical Club. It will be used regularly in future for chamber music recitals.

It is the oldest music room in Europe. It was built specially for that purpose in 1748. Sir Hugh Allen, the distinguished English musical academician, used the house next to this music room when he was Professor of Music at Oxford and bequeathed his library to it.

There are lecture rooms and teaching rooms and accommodation for the records belonging to the University Gramophone Society.

## Check Your Knowledge

1. Name the three kinds of lightning.
2. What is a veldt?
3. Where is Mt Everest, the highest mountain in the world?
4. How are goods transported in Tibet?
5. How is a nectarine distinguished from a peach?
6. Name the countries that participated in the Crimean war.

(Answers on Page 4)

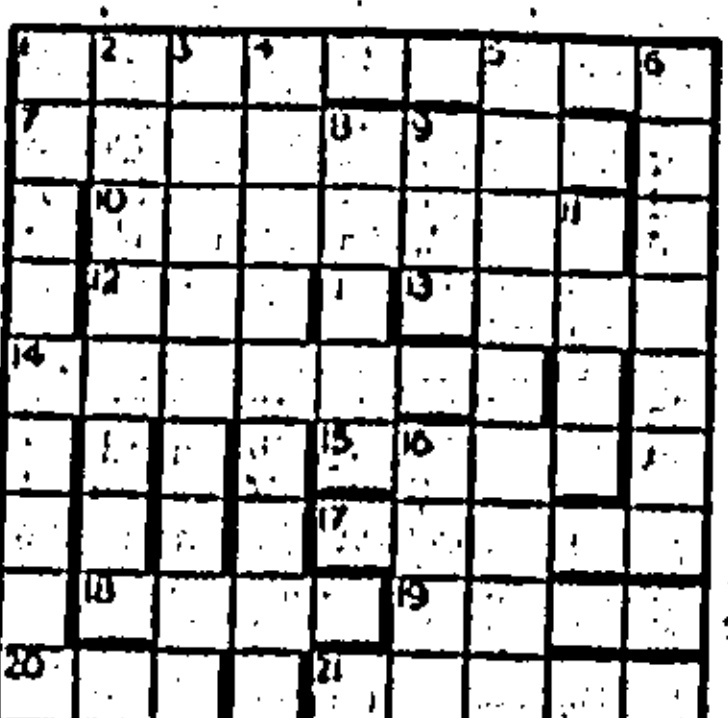
## Rupert and the Big Bang—17



Rupert takes the two remaining squibs that Bingo has given him and hides them carefully in his room. "I'll use those in the morning," he thinks. As soon as it is dark, he joins his pals Bill and Algy and Foddy and Wally, and the foxes and the rabbits on the common, and they have a great time with the fireworks they have bought at the shop. As they build a fire of dry sticks Rupert cries, "Look over there." he cries. "That glow in the sky. Someone has better fireworks than ours!"

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Across
- 1 and 6. A climatic petrol (anag.). (8, 7)
  2. Echo always has done, but this is enough to even make Pete sing. (18)
  3. Aiding to fur it would be a crime. (3)
  4. The mood to return for judicious. (4)
  5. Bones enclosing the brain. (7)

- Down
1. With which policeman may heat his bees. (9)
  2. Haven in the red. (8)
  3. When a woman has one and never stops talking about it. (9)
  4. The gardener has every reason to hope it will appear next year. (8)
  5. The midwife the weight of the slip. (6)
  6. See 1 across.
  7. (9) to show you are too much. (9)
  8. Labour. (4)
  9. Relation of yesterday's puzzle. Across 10. Step 1. From thumb to ear: 11. A word for a word. 12. A word for a word. 13. A word for a word. 14. A word for a word. 15. A word for a word. 16. A word for a word. 17. A word for a word. 18. A word for a word. 19. A word for a word. 20. A word for a word. 21. A word for a word. 22. A word for a word. 23. A word for a word. 24. A word for a word. 25. A word for a word. 26. A word for a word. 27. A word for a word. 28. A word for a word. 29. A word for a word. 30. A word for a word. 31. A word for a word. 32. A word for a word. 33. A word for a word. 34. A word for a word. 35. A word for a word. 36. A word for a word. 37. A word for a word. 38. A word for a word. 39. A word for a word. 40. A word for a word. 41. A word for a word. 42. A word for a word. 43. A word for a word. 44. A word for a word. 45. A word for a word. 46. A word for a word. 47. A word for a word. 48. A word for a word. 49. A word for a word. 50. A word for a word. 51. A word for a word. 52. A word for a word. 53. A word for a word. 54. A word for a word. 55. A word for a word. 56. A word for a word. 57. A word for a word. 58. A word for a word. 59. A word for a word. 60. A word for a word. 61. A word for a word. 62. A word for a word. 63. A word for a word. 64. A word for a word. 65. A word for a word. 66. A word for a word. 67. A word for a word. 68. A word for a word. 69. A word for a word. 70. A word for a word. 71. A word for a word. 72. A word for a word. 73. A word for a word. 74. A word for a word. 75. A word for a word. 76. A word for a word. 77. A word for a word. 78. A word for a word. 79. A word for a word. 80. A word for a word. 81. A word for a word. 82. A word for a word. 83. A word for a word. 84. A word for a word. 85. A word for a word. 86. A word for a word. 87. A word for a word. 88. A word for a word. 89. A word for a word. 90. A word for a word. 91. A word for a word. 92. A word for a word. 93. A word for a word. 94. A word for a word. 95. A word for a word. 96. A word for a word. 97. A word for a word. 98. A word for a word. 99. A word for a word. 100. A word for a word.

## DUMB BELLS



## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

'Pitch' Count Used By Some Players

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

MORE and more players are using the old "pitch" count for no trump. Instead of speaking of a count of three and a half or four for a no trump, they now say they need a count of 18 to 19 or 20. And of course there must be something in every suit.

In today's hand South preferred to show his partner a strong hand rather than open with the weak spade suit.

The play of this hand was very interesting. South won the opening lead with the queen of hearts and pushed out a small spade. He had no better ambition than to establish a spade trick, so when

♠ J94	♥ K64	♦ A763	♣ Q5
♠ 1073	♥ 753	♦ Q1085	♣ K885
♠ 2	♥ N	♦ S	♣ Dealer
♠ 72	♥ 4	♦ 802	♣ A9
♠ K4	♥ A	♦ K94	♣ A103
Tournament—E-W vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 N.T.	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♥ J			
25			

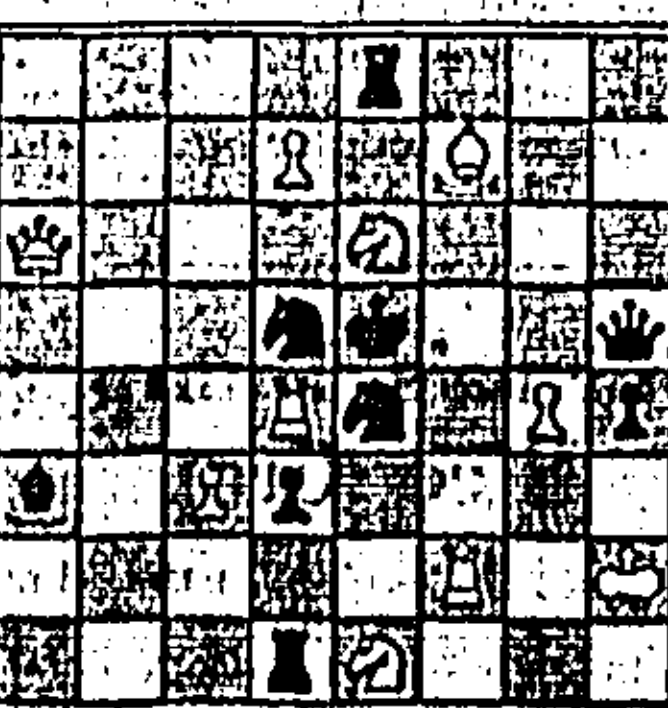
West played low, declarer put on the nine from dummy. East won and came back with a heart, which South won with the ace. Another small spade was played, again West played low and dummy's jack won. A small club was led and the ten-spot finessed. West won and led another heart, knocking out dummy's king. Another club was led and the jack finessed.

Now declarer cashed the ace of clubs and West was forced to make a discard.

Knowing now that another club lead would throw East in, South led the fourth club. East won with the king, but he had nothing to lead except a diamond into dummy's ace-jack.

## CHESS PROBLEM

By G. JOENSSON



White, 10 pieces.  
White to play and mate in two.  
Solution to yesterday's problem:  
1. K-K4, T-T3, P-Q3, K-K5, B-B1, ... K-K4, 2. K-K2 (dies ch.).

SHOWING  
TO-DAY

KING'S

At 2.30, 5.15,  
7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

It Bubbles  
With Joy!  
It Sparkles  
With Song!  
It Dazzles  
With Dancing!

M-G-M's  
**YOLANDA and the THIEF**  
STARRING  
**FRED ASTAIRE · LUCILLE BREMER**  
with FRANK MORGAN  
in Festive Technicolor!

MILDRED  
NATWICK  
MARY  
NASH  
LEON  
AMES

Screen Play by Irving Brecher • Based Upon a Story by Jacques Thery and Ludwig Bemelmans • Songs by ARTHUR FREED and HARRY WARREN  
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Directed by  
**VINCENTE MINNELLI · ARTHUR FREED**  
— ALSO LATEST METRO-NEWS —



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PROUDLY PRESENTS THE MOST TALKED OF CHINESE  
PICTURE OF ALL TIME!

## "THE TEARS OF YANGTZE"

DIALOGUE IN MANDARIN

PLEASE NOTE THE ARRANGEMENT &amp; TIMES:

FIRST PART  
"EIGHT WAR-TORN YEARS"  
DAILY AT 2.30 & 7.15 P.M.

SECOND PART  
"THE DAWN"  
DAILY AT 5.00 & 9.30 P.M.

SHOWING

MAJESTIC

At 2.30, 5.20,  
7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

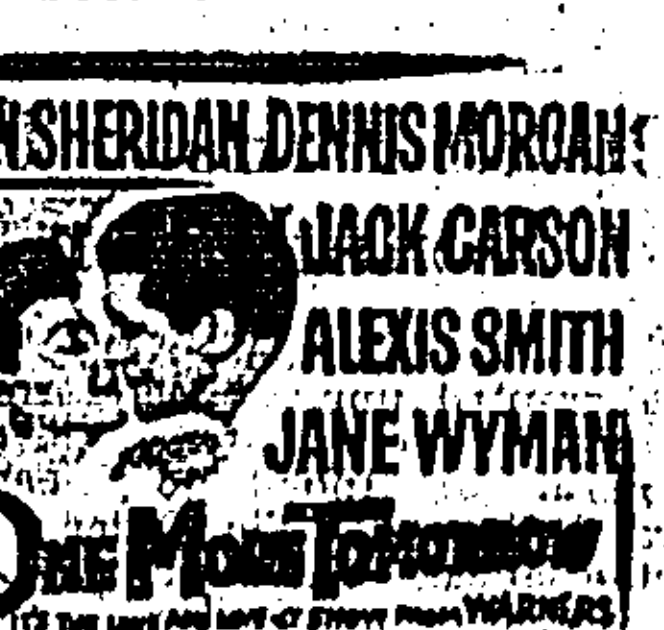
LANDING IN ENEMY TERRITORY... AND A WOMAN'S ARMS!



COMMENCING FRIDAY  
MICKY ROONEY in  
"NATIONAL VELVET"  
IN TECHNICOLOR.

STAR  
PHONE 3435

2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.  
TO-DAY & TO-MORROW



ANN SHERIDAN DENNIS MORAN  
JACK CARSON  
ALEXIS SMITH  
JANE WYMAN  
One More Picture

NOTICE  
TO  
ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

They  
Gave  
their  
Lives.

We, too,  
may give  
through the  
**HONGKONG  
WAR  
MEMORIAL  
FUND**

Send your  
donation to:  
The Hon. Treasurers  
Lowy, Bingham & Matthews  
Mercantile Bank Bldg.

## SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Sure, I'm against long skirts. If I were a woman nobody'd tell me how to dress!"



# 8th ARMY COMMANDER ON WAR DIFFICULTIES

London, Jan. 15.—General, now Field Marshal, Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of the British Middle East Forces from 1940 to 1942, said that the conduct of the Eighth Army's desert battle with Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's troops was "always handicapped" by "lack of knowledge of Soviet capabilities and intentions" in a lengthy despatch published last night in the London Gazette.

## SIB SISTERS

Shanghai, Jan. 14.—An elderly Shanghai lady, who refused to permit the use of her name, disclosed today that she telephoned her sister-in-law in the United States from whom she had been separated for 25 years.

She said that when her sister answered the telephone she began weeping, whereupon the Shanghai sister told her American sister to stop crying and start talking since it was costing CN\$3,000,000 a minute.

The Shanghai woman confessed she also broke down and both cried over the trans-Pacific phone for 11 minutes before sobbing out goodbyes. — United Press.

## AMERICANS TO STAY PUT IN BERLIN

Berlin, Jan. 14.—General Lucius Clay, Commander-in-Chief of the American forces in Germany, said today that the American representatives would sit in Berlin, with "no fears and no nerves," regardless of what may happen.

Gen. Clay's statement was made in response to a United Press request for clarification of the American position in the light of Soviet hints that the Western Allies should get out.

The Commander made it plain that the United States representatives had full confidence in their position, regardless of what might happen.

"We sit here as representatives of a country with immeasurable strength. As such, we have no fears and no nerves," — United Press.

**Washington Statement**  
Washington, Jan. 14.—Mr. Robert Lovett, Under-Secretary of State, declared today that the United States had no intention of withdrawing from Berlin despite apparently German-inspired editorials in German eastern zone newspapers.

"We will remain in Berlin in discharge of our obligations," he said. Mr. Lovett spoke in answer to a statement in a Soviet army newspaper in Berlin last Sunday which declared: "There is no room in Berlin for adherents of the partition of Germany." — Reuter.

## Repayment Of Europe Aid

Washington, Jan. 14.—The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. John Snyder, said today that the United States must require repayment "in every practical way" of its Marshall Plan aid to Europe.

Mr. Snyder told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that 20 to 40 percent of the proposed US\$50,000,000,000 in the first 15 months may be given to the 10 Western European nations as long-term loans.

As chairman of the National Advisory Council, responsible for foreign loan policy, Mr. Snyder was reluctant to give more specific estimates on what portion might be granted as repayable loans.

The Committee chairman, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, told Mr. Snyder that Congress found it "tremendously important" to get some idea of what the United States might recover. — United Press.

## ITALIANS IN SOMALILAND

Rome, Jan. 15.—The Italian Foreign Ministry announced today it has intervened with the British Government, both in London and Rome, asking that measures be taken to ensure the safety of Italians in Somaliland.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the action was taken by the Italian Government as soon as it had learned of recent disorders in the former Italian colony, for which Italy last week asked a mandate.

The spokesman said that the Italian Government asked assurance for free expression of their views before the inquiry commission, that recently arrived in Somaliland, and also asked that a rigorous investigation be made into disorders at Mogadishio, where 42 Italians and 11 Somalilanders were reported killed and several gravely injured. — Associated Press.

Auchinleck described the bitter Middle East military operations from November 1, 1941 to August 15, 1942.

Lack of adequate equipment for desert warfare, and the unexpected withdrawal of troops to the Far East to meet the Japanese attack, also were given as reasons for the eventual retreat from Tobruk to El Alamein.

General Auchinleck revealed that in May 1942, "apart from one operation, there were no aircraft either in Malta or the rest of the Middle East capable of reaching Tripoli, nor were the British yet capable of bomb Benghazi by day."

He paid tribute to the Russians' heroic stand at Stalingrad, "which stood between the Middle East and the gravest danger, but referred to the difficulties encountered in attempting to co-operate with the Soviet military commanders."

"The successful Russian counter-offensive in the winter of 1941 to 1942 offset the loss of promised reinforcements in point of time," he wrote, "but not as regards the size of the forces which would eventually be required to garrison the whole command."

"If the Germans should take the offensive once more and defeat the Russians."

**Always Handicapped**

"We were always handicapped in our calculations, I may say, by lack of knowledge of Soviet capabilities and intentions."

Describing plans to fight the enemy in Northern Persia to protect bases and oil installations at the head of the Persian Gulf, it was necessary to explore and prepare the ground, the General said.

"These facilities the Russians, who controlled this zone, would not give us," he wrote. "Moreover, we had no information of their plans for the Caucasus. We asked that arrangements be made without delay for us to co-operate with the Russians; but this seemed impossible, owing, apparently, to the Russian High Command's insistence on centralisation and great secrecy."

Later, Auchinleck said, the Eighth Army "acted independently" and sent reconnaissance parties into Northern Persia to procure at least some of the essential information.

"These parties established good relations with the Persians and did their work with little friction," he added.

**Initial Successes**  
The despatch detailed the Eighth Army's initial successes in Eastern Cyrenaica which led to the destruction of "over two-thirds of the enemy forces" in the area and the relief of the Tobruk garrison; then related the arrival of enemy reinforcements and the Eighth Army's retreat back to El Alamein.

Learning to handle tanks in the desert "cost us dearly," Auchinleck admitted.

In spite of the gallantry with which they fought, our armoured troops were worsted in almost every encounter with the enemy tanks, not only because they were comparatively inexperienced but also because the enemy tanks mounted guns of greater range.

"Whenever our tanks attempted to take the enemy in the rear, they were confronted by formidable 88 millimetre guns to which we possessed no counterpart."

Another difficulty, the General said, was the war in the Far East, which "gravely affected our plans in the Middle East."

**Japanese Menace**  
"On April 23 we received a long and detailed appreciation of the situation," he wrote. "In discussing possible Japanese plans, an attempt to invade Ceylon was not ruled out, although it seemed more likely that the Japanese would try to exploit their success in Malaya and Burma by advancing into India from the northeast."

"For the time being, we were in no position to offer effective opposition by sea, land or air to any offensive."

"Should the Japanese press boldly westward without pause for consolidation, the Indian Empire would be in grave danger. In that event the security of the essential supply line would be threatened. The Middle East and India were therefore interdependent."

The General said that as a result of this "gloomy" picture he decided to give up plans for an offensive in Libya.

"We should rather concentrate on strengthening our defences in the Middle East and spare all we could to reinforce India in the hope of checking the Japanese advance before it should be too late," he wrote.

**Turks' Position**  
At the same time, General Auchinleck said, he ordered "fresh positions to be fortified in Northern Palestine and along the Jordan" and urged "every effort should be made to send the Turks small arms, engineering stores, motor vehicles and raw materials for their munition factories."

"The Turks, for their part, though obviously anxious to accept our aid and to see our cause successful, were extremely careful to avoid any action which might cause Germany to question their neutrality, and this made it most difficult to make really effective preparations to assist them."

The preparation of defences and communications in Iraq and Syria continued throughout May.

**Expected Offensive**  
"At the end of May the Germans launched their expected offensive in Russia, and from that moment the danger, against which we were still so ill-prepared, steadily grew more imminent. Simultaneously Rommel launched an attack in Cyrenaica."

The enemy attacked Tobruk on June 20 and tanks "reached the harbour the same evening," the General said, adding that "exact and reliable accounts of the fighting are still unobtainable."

The battle of Egypt developed rapidly after this setback, and the Eighth Army retreated to El Alamein until finally it "stopped the enemy's drive on Egypt and laid the foundations on which to build our future counter-stroke." — Associated Press.

**Burma's Bumper Rice Crop**  
Rangoon, Jan. 14.—Burma has a bumper rice crop this year, it was officially stated here today.

The new crop harvest, now almost completed, exceeded all previous estimates, an Agricultural Department official stated.

He described the present yield as a record for the past 10 years.

The Government, he added, was confident of being "able to export more than the estimated quota of 1,800,000 tons during 1948." — Reuter.

**Bigger Fat Ration For Britons**  
London, Jan. 14.—Britain's fat ration will be increased from seven to eight ounces weekly from February 1, the Food Minister, Mr. John Strachey, announced today.

"This increase will be maintained during the next three difficult months when the effects of indispensable cuts in our food supplies from dollar sources already announced will be particularly felt," Mr. Strachey said. — Reuter.

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## American Wins Figure Skating Championship

Prague, Jan. 14.—Richard Button, of the United States, tonight carried off the European figure skating championship when he beat the holder and world champion, Hans Gerschwiler, of Switzerland, after a great struggle.

## FENG BREAKS COMPLETELY WITH CHIANG

New York, Jan. 14.—General Feng Yu-shiang today defied the Chinese Government order recalling him to China and announced his allegiance to all forces seeking the overthrow of Chiang Kai-shek.

Gen. Feng declared at a press conference that he would embark on a speaking tour all over the United States in an attempt to muster support for opposition to aid for China.

He thus terminated his latest association with Chiang Kai-shek, with whom and against whom he has fought intermittently since the founding of the Chinese Republic in 1912.

Gen. Feng simultaneously abandoned the commission to study water conservation projects. He had been chairman of this Commission since his arrival in the United States on September 14, 1940.

He declared: "Democratic groups with the Kuomintang met in Hongkong from January 1 to 3 and resolved to form a revolutionary committee."

"I am greatly honoured in having been elected to the central board," he pledged, together with my democratic comrades in the Kuomintang, to fight for the overthrow of Chiang's dictatorship and the realisation of peace and democracy in China." — United Press.

## India's Appeal To Persia

Teheran, Jan. 14.—The Indian Embassy here has issued a 1,000-word statement complaining that certain Persian newspapers have been publishing false reports "to prejudice public opinion against India" and to strain relations against India and Persia.

Declaring that India desired friendship with Persia, the statement said religious freedom was guaranteed to Indian Muslims by the constitution.

India's population of 300,000,000, 25,000,000 Moslems and 100,000 Persian subjects, all of whom, without discrimination, were protected by the Indian Government.

"Disorders and communal riots," the statement alleged, "are the result of the efforts of Mr. Jinnah and the Moslem League aimed at the creation of Pakistan, who by propaganda, by instigating the Moslems and by swaying British opinion divided India, and they unfortunately persist in their aim."

The statement, after asking how the Persians would react if similar tactics were used to divide Persia on the pretext of the existence of different religions in the country, proceeded to list "atrocities against the Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan." — Reuter.

## India Increases Tax On Tea

New Delhi, Jan. 14.—The Government of India today announced the raising by about sixpence sterling per 100 pounds, the weight of tax on tea export from India and Pakistan.

The announcement in the India Gazette said that one rupee six annas (two shillings sterling) per 100 pounds weight would be levied on tea produced in India and Pakistan and exported.

This compulsory tax on tea exports had stood at one rupee since April 1940.

Acting yesterday rejected a British offer of twopenny per pound more than the 1947 contract price. — Reuter.

## GENOVA SKI RACES

Geneva, Jan. 14.—Belgium won both the team race and the men's downhill in the first "Etiandlers" ski races ever held when the event, confined to non-mountainous countries, attracted entries from Belgium, Britain, Holland and Denmark.

The results were:  
Men's team: Belgium first, Britain second, Holland third and Denmark fourth.

The Men's downhill 1-1/2 miles with a 1,600 metres drop was won by Philippe D'Ursel, of Belgium, in two minutes 28.4 seconds.

Peter Waddell, of Britain, in two minutes 31.3 seconds, was second, followed by Michael Feron, of Belgium, in two minutes 31.3 seconds, third, Dennis Feron, of Belgium, in two minutes 35.2 seconds fourth, J. Palmer Tomkinson, of Britain, two minutes 39.4 seconds fifth, D. Garrow, of Britain, in three minutes 0.2 seconds sixth.

Women's downhill: Miss I. Roe, of Britain, in three minutes 13.8 seconds, won this event, with Miss R. Sparrow, in three minutes 34 seconds second, Mrs. Greeland, of Britain, in three minutes 50.6 seconds, third, Miss E. Angus, of Britain, in three minutes 55 seconds fourth, Miss Vunpneij, of Holland, in four minutes 20.4 seconds, fifth, and Miss Van Palland, of Holland, in five minutes 1.8 seconds sixth. — Reuter.

**Scotland Wins**  
Glasgow, Jan. 14.—Forty thousand spectators saw Scotland beat Ireland by three goals to nil in the Inter-League Match at Celtic Park this afternoon.

Scotland led in 28 minutes when Houliston headed home from a corner kick, and Scotland led by this goal at half time.

The crowd increased by 10,000 for the second half when Ireland had plenty of time to play without being able to break Scotland's defence.

Seven minutes from the end, Houliston scored his second goal and Duncan put in the third two minutes from time. — Reuter.

**Tennist Indisposed**  
Trichinopoly, Jan. 14.—The Swedish lawn tennis player, Lennart Bergelin, who sustained a slight sprain yesterday, is now suffering from dysentery.

As a result of this indisposition, today's exhibition games were cancelled.

Before leaving with Johansson for Bangalore by train tonight, Bergelin said that he was feeling better and hoped to keep all his engagements.

He promised to visit Trichinopoly again on January 22. — Reuter.

## WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH

Tonbridge, Jan. 14.—Firemen searching debris of a house badly damaged by fire in Cornwall last night, Tonbridge, found the body of Mrs. Angell, the wife of a member of the Tonbridge Urban District Council.

The cause of the fire is not known but the police and firemen are satisfied that Mrs. Angell was alone in the house when the fire started and in bed and asleep. — Reuter.

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## Impasse In French National Assembly

Paris, Jan. 14.—The French National Assembly tonight officially began its 1948 session without the Communists after wrangling over its Parliamentary leadership for nearly 24 hours. But the constitutional deadlock, caused by the Communists' refusal to accept the nominations on who should preside over the Assembly, had been only temporarily settled, observers thought tonight.

## ESSENTIALS TO ITALY'S RECOVERY

Washington, Jan. 14.—The absorption by other countries of Italy's excess manpower was essential to the country's stable economy, a State Department report giving additional data on the Marshall Plan declared tonight.

State Department data showed that Italy was unlikely to regain either her 1939 favourable balance of payments position or her prewar food consumption levels until some time after the European recovery programme had been cancelled.

The report claimed that the strengthening of moderate political measures recently was owing to the growth of popular discontent with frequent disturbances fomented by Communists as well as series of unfriendly acts on the part of Soviet Russia.

The report stressed, however, that the "stability and continued existence of the moderate Italian Government will depend on the improvement in Italy's critical economic situation."

It summed up Italy's serious economic difficulties as "steadily increasing population, seriously inadequate food supplies, severe inflation and extensive unemployment."

It called for a "simplified" tax structure in Italy, but added: "The full success in stopping the wage-price spiral when an increased and regular supply of consumer goods makes it possible for the average Italian to meet essential needs with his current income." — Reuter.

## OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered letters and parcels close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. It mail close before 10 a.m. registered parcels will close at 5 p.m. Previous days.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**  
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, Reg. 3 p.m.  
Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Canton, Peking, Hongkong, Canton, Peking, Amoy and Foochow, Reg. 3 p.m.

Closing Times by Sea and Train  
Canton, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 1 p.m.  
Canton, Tientsin and Shekhi (Train) 2 p.m.  
Shanghai (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Shanghai (Train) 3 p.m.

Strait and Calcutta (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Kongmoon (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**  
Canton, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 1 p.m.  
Canton, Tientsin and Shekhi (Train) 2 p.m.  
Shanghai (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Shanghai (Train) 3 p.m.

Strait and Calcutta (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.  
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